

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Int'l Appln No.: PCT/US00/02688

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Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
MAINTENANCE AND EXPANSION  
OF HEMOPOIETIC STEM CELLS AND/OR  
PROGENITOR CELLS

**Applicant:** TECHNION RESEARCH &  
DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION LTD.

Attorney Docket: 00/20187

## RESPONSE

BOX PCT  
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is a response to a Written Opinion sent April 30, 2001, a response to which is due, and being made, within one month.

Enclosed please find a replacement page 59, replacing pages 59-60 of the application as published (WO 00/46349), in which claims 89-99 have been canceled.

### *Certain Observations on the International Application*

The Examiner has objected to claims 1-99 under PCT Rule 66.2(a)(v) as lacking clarity under PCT Article 6 because the claims are indefinite, as the terms "plug-flow bioreactor" (claims 1-88) and "bioreactor plug" (claims 89-99) are uncertain as to meaning and scope. Claims 89-99 have now been canceled.

The term "plug-flow bioreactor" is used in patent literature, see for example, US Patents Nos. 6,033, 568; 5,873,997, 5,510,262; 5,342,522; 5,262,320 and